



JAMIE RASKIN  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

June 18, 2020

Dana K. Bilyeu  
Executive Director  
Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board  
77 K Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Ms. Bilyeu:

I write in regard to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board's (FRTIB) current policy on installment payments affecting hundreds of thousands of retired federal workers who receive payments based on life expectancy. As you know, the current policy for Thrift Savings Plans (TSP) prohibits participants from restarting life-expectancy-based installment payments once they have been suspended. I understand that in light of the temporary waiver of required minimum distributions for 2020, FRTIB is considering revising this policy and I would respectfully encourage you to do so. I have heard from many of my constituents who are concerned about this policy. I stand ready to work with you to allow TSP participants to reestablish their life-expectancy-based installment payments for 2021.

In response to the unprecedented economic and public health crisis wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the CARES Act, which contained a provision to give seniors' retirement account balances a chance to recover by effectively cancelling the required minimum distribution (RMD) for calendar year 2020. I thank FRTIB for taking action to implement this RMD suspension.

As a result of this RMD suspension for 2020, many TSP participants have already or will soon stop their automatic installment payments, which are the most popular choice for TSP withdrawals. TSP provides participants with a withdrawal option that calculates the participant's exact monthly or quarterly installment payment amount based on life expectancy. This convenient option allows seniors to receive regular RMD payments throughout the year, rather than receiving the RMD amount as an annual payment. Unfortunately, retirees who wish to take advantage of the 2020 RMD suspension and stop their life-expectancy-based installment payments would not be able to restart them in 2021.

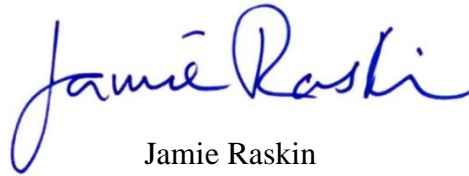
TSP currently provides two options for participants who stop life-expectancy-based installment plans in 2020. The first option requires participants to manually calculate payments for a quarterly or monthly payment schedule. Since the RMD amount changes every year based on the participant's life expectancy, participants will have to make calculations for the rest of their lives. The second option provided by TSP would allow participants to receive their RMD amount as a

single withdrawal in December. However, some of my constituents are concerned about the way this would be delivered, believing that a paper check is less secure than an electronic deposit. Many of my constituents would prefer receiving automatic payments on a quarterly or monthly schedule, as they have previously.

I urge you to allow TSP participants to restart life-expectancy based installment payments in 2021. If FRTIB needs additional resources, such as information technology programming to implement this change, or additional authority to implement this change, please let me know. I am hopeful, however, that FTIB can reinstate life-expectancy based installment payments for our retired federal workers easily and without further delay.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jamie Raskin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jamie" and last name "Raskin" clearly legible.

Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress